

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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O P 202306Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 014176

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS:PARM, KS, CA, FR

SUBJECT: ROK REPROCESSING

TOKYO PLEASE PASS TO MYRON KRATZER/CINCPAC FOR POLAD

POLAD PLEASE PASS TO ASST SEC HABIB AND AMB SNEIDER ONLY

1. CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR NUTTING INFORMED DEPARTMENT TODAY (JAN 20) THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE ROK FOREIGN MINISTER. QUOTE: FOR REASONS WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH YOU AND SHARE IN COMMON WITH THE US, WE ARE PREPARED TO SIGN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT AS SOON AS YOU GIVE US ASSURANCE THAT THE ROK WILL NOT PURSUE ACQUISITION OF THE PROJECTED REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE. UNQUOTE

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2. EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAID THAT SAME MESSAGE DELIVERED TO ROK AMBASSADOR IN OTTAWA LAST EVENING. ALSO, THEY INTENDED TO INFORM THE FRENCH AT SOME POINT BUT NOT REPEAT NOT UNTIL THEY RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM THE ROK.

3. FOR SEOUL: DEPARTMENT INFORMED CANADIAN AND FRENCH EMBASSIES LAST WEEK OF US DECISION TO SEND TECHNICAL TEAM TO SEOUL FOR SINGLE MEETING WITH ROK AND GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS AS OUTLINED IN EMBASSY INSTRUCTIONS, REFTEL STATE 9920 (NOTAL).

4. IN A FOLLOW-UP CALL, CANADIAN COUNSELOR NUTTING GAVE FOLLOWING DETAILS OF AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ROK. ROK FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. CANCELLATION OF THE PLANT IS DIFFICULT AND AWKWARD FOR ROK. FRENCH GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY EXPECTS ROK TO GO AHEAD WITH SALE. ROK WOULD HOPE THE GOC WOULD ACCEPT ROK ASSURANCES OF PEACEFUL INTENT IN GOOD FAITH. IN LIEU OF THIS, ROK DECISION ON REPROCESSING WILL COMPLETELY DEPEND ON TALKS WITH US TEAM AND NEGOTIATION OF ALTERNATIVES. DISCUSSIONS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, PERHAPS SEVERAL MONTHS.

5. CANADIANS INTERPRET THIS AS ROK DECISION TO HANG TOUGH AND ROK WILLINGNESS TO DELAY CANADIAN AGREEMENT INDEFINITELY, IF NECESSARY, UNTIL US/ROK TALKS ON FUTURE COOPERATION REACH OUTCOME SATISFACTORY TO ROK. DEPARTMENT REITERATED TO CANADIAN COUNSELOR (A) US DECISION TO SEND TEAM FOR SINGLE MEETING WITH ROK, (B) US INTENT NOT TO GET INTO PROTRACTED DISCUSSIONS OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROK, (C) THAT FOLLOW-ON TALKS ON FUTURE US/ROK NUCLEAR COOPERATION WOULD BE HELD ONLY AFTER ROK CANCELS REPROCESSING PLANT, AND (D) THAT ROK HAD BEEN CLEARLY INFORMED OF THE ABOVE. SISCO

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